

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A natural rubber latex in which glucans contained in the latex are decomposed, wherein enzyme treatment with an α -glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of the glucans, and without a protease enzyme.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein the α -glucan decomposing enzyme is α -amylase.

4. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein an addition amount of the α -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

5. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein the β -glucan decomposing enzyme is cellulase.

6. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein an addition amount of the β -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

7. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

8. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

9. (currently amended): A natural rubber obtained from a natural rubber latex in which glucans contained in the latex are decomposed, wherein enzyme treatment with an α -glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of the glucans, and without a protease enzyme.

10. (original): A rubber composition using the natural rubber as described in claim 9.

11. (original): A tire characterized by using the rubber composition as described in claim 10.

12. (currently amended): A production process for a natural rubber, wherein it is produced by subjecting a natural rubber latex to enzyme treatment with an α -glucan

decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzyme to decompose glucans contained therein, and without a protease enzyme.

13. (original): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12, wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

14. (previously presented): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

15. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 3, wherein an addition amount of the α -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

16. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 5, wherein an addition amount of the β -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

17-19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 13, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.